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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 001497

SIPDIS

DOL FOR BLS AND ILAB
TREASURY FOR IMI
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ELAB](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: EU UNEMPLOYMENT UP TO 9.2 PERCENT; EURO ZONE RATE UP TO 9.7 PERCENT

BRUSSELS 00001497 001.2 OF 002

¶1. SUMMARY. The latest EU unemployment data released by the EU Commission's Statistical Office (EUROSTAT) on October 30 showed further deterioration of the situation on the EU labor markets. The aggregate unemployment rate for the EU-27 increased to 9.2 percent in September 2009, up from 9.1 in August. Unemployment in the euro zone (the 16 EU countries currently participating in the euro) increased to 9.7 in September 2009, also up by 0.1 percentage point over the previous month. END SUMMARY.

¶2. With seasonal adjustment and compensation for differences in national statistical methods, the unemployment rate for the EU-27 stood at 9.2 percent in September 2009, up from 9.1 percent in August 2009 and from 7.1 percent in September 2008. The unemployment rate for the euro zone stood at 9.7 percent in September 2009, up from 9.6 percent in August 2009 and from 7.7 percent in September 2008 (comparison based on EU-16; euro zone membership effective in September 2009).

¶3. The lowest monthly rates among those compiled by EUROSTAT from the EU-27 for September 2009 were recorded in the Netherlands (3.6 percent) and Austria (4.8 percent). The highest rates were recorded in Latvia (19.7 percent) and Spain (19.3 percent).

¶4. EUROSTAT data showed all countries among the EU-27 recording an increase in their unemployment rate over a year, some showing quite a sharp rise. The smallest increases took place in Germany (from 7.1 percent in September 2008 to 7.6 percent in September 2009), Italy (from 6.8 percent to 7.4 percent between the second quarters of 2008 and 2009) and Belgium (from 7.3 percent in September 2008 to 7.9 percent in September 2009). The sharpest yearly increases occurred in Latvia (from 8.1 percent in September 2008 to 19.7 percent in September 2009) and Estonia (from 4.1 percent to 13.3 percent between the second quarters of 2008 and 2009).

¶5. Based on EUROSTAT estimates, male unemployment reached 9.3 percent in September 2009 for the EU-27 and 9.6 percent for the euro zone, up 2.5 percentage point for both the EU-27 and the euro zone areas when compared to September 2008. The female unemployment rate for September 2009 reached 9.0 percent for the EU-27 and 9.8 percent for the euro zone, up 1.5 percentage point and up 1.4 percent respectively over the twelve-month period.

¶6. Unemployment rates among young people under 25 for September 2009 ranged from 6.8 percent in the Netherlands to 41.7 percent in Spain. The September 2009 rate for this age group was estimated at 20.2 percent for the EU-27 and at 20.1 percent for the euro zone, compared to 15.8 percent and 15.7 percent respectively for September 2008 (plus 4.4 percentage point for both areas).

¶7. EUROSTAT estimated that 21.123 million were

unemployed in the EU-27 in September 2009, of which 15.324 million reside in the euro zone. In absolute numbers, the number of unemployed increased by 5,011,000 for the EU-27 and by 3,204,000 for the euro zone over the twelve-month period.

18. Following is the breakdown of unemployment rates in ascending order for the individual EU member states:

(Seasonally-adjusted)

(September 2009 rates unless otherwise indicated)

Netherlands	3.6
Austria	4.8
Cyprus	5.9
Slovenia	5.9
Denmark	6.4
Romania	6.4 (second quarter 2009)
Luxembourg	6.6
Czech Republic	7.0
Malta	7.2
Italy	7.4 (second quarter 2009)
Bulgaria	7.6
Germany	7.6
UK	7.8 ((July 2009)
Belgium	7.9
Poland	8.2
Finland	8.6
Sweden	8.7
Greece	9.2 (second quarter 2009)
Portugal	9.2
Hungary	9.7
France	10.0
Slovakia	12.0
Ireland	13.0

BRUSSELS 00001497 002.2 OF 002

Estonia	13.3 (second quarter 2009)
Lithuania	13.8 (second quarter 2009)
Latvia	18.3
Spain	19.3

EU-27	9.2
Euro zone	9.7

19. The monthly rates and numbers of unemployed are estimated and based on data from the EU labor force survey. The estimated rates may differ from national unemployment rates due to differences in methods and definitions of unemployment. Unemployed people according to ILO criteria are those aged 15 and over who:

-- Are without work;

-- Are available to start work within the next two weeks; and

-- Have actively sought employment at some time during the previous four weeks.

MURRAY